

PBS MacNeil/Lehrer
24 May 1984

CIA/WILLIAM
CASEY

LEHRER: There was one of those uniquely styled Washington-style coincidences of timing this morning. Yesterday, Democrats on a House subcommittee issued a report strongly suggesting William J. Casey, President Reagan's 1980 campaign manager, knowingly received illegally acquired Carter campaign documents and then remembered less than the truth about it. Casey is now the head of the Central Intelligence Agency. And today's White House schedule had President Reagan scheduled to speak at ground-breaking ceremonies for a new CIA building at Langley, VA. Would Mr. Reagan show up? Would he mention the debate papers charge? Would he support or back off Casey? Here, on videotape, are all the answers. PRESIDENT\RONALD\REAGAN (on videotape): Your work, the work of your director, the other top officials, have been an inspiration to your fellow Americans and to people everywhere. I wanted to come here today not only to dedicate this new building, which will assist greatly in better coordinating and consolidating CIA activities, but to pledge to you my continued support and bring to each and every one of you the heartfelt thanks of the American people. You remain the eyes and ears of the Free World. You are the tripwire over which the totalitarian rule must stumble in their quest for global domination. Though it's sometimes forgotten here in Washington, the American people know full well the importance of vital and energetic intelligence operations.